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Union Schools in San José Go Back to School and Go Green

District kicks off school year with new lunch composting

Helps San José win “Outstanding K-12 School Program” for recycling

- Event:** Join Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Judy Chirco, Superintendent Jacqueline Horejs and 350 teachers and staff as Union School District launches San José’s **first Lunch Composting program** at Union’s **Go Green Breakfast**.
- When:** 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 21
- Where:** Union School District Offices, 5175 Union Avenue, San José
- Who:** **Mayor Chuck Reed**
Councilmember Judy Chirco
Superintendent Jacqueline Horejs
- Visuals:** At Union District schools, students are actively involved in recycling. Starting this year, they will add food scraps to the waste that the kids sort into clearly marked containers for waste, compostable and recyclable materials.
- Background:** In San José, 32% of commercial waste stream is food waste that could be composted. **California schools produce more than 763,000 tons of waste** in a single year (about 4% of the total commercial waste). Much of this waste is organic material, including food waste, that could be collected and composted.

The **Go Green Schools** program promotes environmental leadership in K-12 schools through recycling, composting, green buying, green cleaning and pest practices, and environmental education. The program provides free recycling containers and technical assistance, and awards grants to help schools with projects to go green. For more information about San José’s Go Green Schools program, visit the Website: www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/schools.

Due in part to the Union Go Green program, San José Go Green Schools will be recognized in September with an award for “Outstanding K-12 School Program” from the National Recycling Coalition. **Union’s Lunch Composting program will help San José meet its Green Vision goal of becoming a Zero Waste city.**